

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHELL PERFIN

ON EGYPTIAN STAMPS

Vahe Varjabedian

A couple of years ago I found the Shell Company perfin, which is in a sea shell shape and represents the logo of the company. At that time I had very limited information about this pattern and its usage.

During the last two years many Shell Company invoices and receipts have come to light. After checking some hundreds of them, all franked with Tax Stamps issued from 1939-61, 5 MILLS (Fig. 1) Violet and 10 MILLS (Brown) punctured by shell perfins, I found different types and shapes. The early period which is 1946 the puncturing has large pins, horizontally and vertically. In the fifties the pins became thinner. In the sixties we can find many omitted or closed or deformed holes due to excessive usage, or perhaps not punctured very carefully.

Until now the earliest recorded date of this company is 1/5/1946 issued in CAIRO. D and the latest recorded from METRO (down town Cairo) Service Station on the 28/4/64.

During 18 years these perfined stamps were used to frank receipts given to customers after paying the fee of fuelling or having their car serviced at any of the Shell Company Service Stations in Cairo and its suburbs. The recorded Shell stations are Zamalek, Tayaran (Heliopolis), Metro, Giza. I also found invoices sent by post to customers informing about their expenses during the year.

Type 1 had 38 holes (Fig.2); Type 2 had 45 holes (Fig.3). Later ones with blind holes and omitted ones as (Fig.4), and (Fig.5).

